

SENATE—Monday, December 3, 2001

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 4, 2001, at 12:30 p.m.

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEFF BINGAMAN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we do not need to ask to come into Your presence for You have been ever-present through our nights and days. We never need shout across the spaces to You as an absent God. You are nearer than our own souls, closer than our most secret thoughts. We need not inform You of our requests, for You are omniscient. We do not need to brief You on the alternative possibilities for this week's decisions, for You already know what is in keeping with Your best for us and will reveal that if we ask You. What we do need is to linger in Your presence until we are assured of Your love, regain true security, and are refortified by Your strength. Thank You for using this time of prayer with You to show us Your faithfulness and to receive Your guidance.

In Scripture, You call us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. We do that this afternoon with the vivid pictures of the mall terrorist attack: jarring explosions, heart-breaking deaths and injuries, and the wail of sirens. Grant us Your strength in the battle with the evil of terrorism. Bless the President and Congress as they seek Your power both to complete the war in Afghanistan and to strategize with negotiations in the Middle East as a whole. Help us, dear God; we need You. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEFF BINGAMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 3, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF BINGAMAN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BINGAMAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 4:45 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the Senate will be in a period for morning business until 4:45 p.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees. At 4:45 p.m., the Senate will resume consideration of the Railroad Retirement Act. There will be 30 minutes of debate prior to a 5:15 p.m. cloture vote on the Lott amendment. If cloture is not invoked on the Lott amendment, a second cloture vote will occur on the Daschle substitute amendment. As a reminder, all second-degree amendments must be filed prior to 4:15 p.m.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 3210 AND S. 1748

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I understand that the following bills are at the desk, having been read the first time: H.R. 3210 and S. 1748.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is correct.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order

en bloc for these two bills to receive a second reading. I would then object to any further consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bills for a second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3210) to ensure the continued financial capacity of insurers to provide coverage for risks from terrorism.

A bill (S. 1748) to promote the stabilization of the economy by encouraging financial institutions to continue to support economic development, including development in urban areas, through the provision of affordable insurance coverage against acts of terrorism, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, both bills will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ISSUES BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the order before the Senate is that until quarter to 5 today, we are going to spend time talking about matters before the Senate. The two issues about which we are going to vote deal not with the railroad retirement, but rather with a moratorium on cloning and, in addition to that, legislation dealing with energy.

The Presiding Officer, of course, has spent a good part of his life, especially the last several months, coming up with legislation on energy for this country.

I have worked with the Presiding Officer in his capacity as chairman of the Energy Committee on a number of occasions. Of course, I, as most everyone else in the Senate, am impressed with his ability to understand issues.

Rather than moving forward on legislation in the normal fashion, we are now going to deal with this issue in a piecemeal fashion.

The majority leader has said we should have a full and complete debate on this issue. He has stated we could take this matter up before the month of February of next year, but prior to the President's Day recess. We would have a debate, have the legislation before the Senate, have the Republicans' proposal and the Democrats' proposal,